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O P 200926Z AUG 71 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8946
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT BY GENERAL MINH OF WITHDRAWAL

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF FULL TEXTS OF COMMUNIQUE AND ATTACHED PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY PRESS OFFICE OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH AUGUST 20: BEGIN TEXT

2. COMMUNIQUE NO. 11. FOLLOWING IS THE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY THS INFORMATION AND PRESS OFFICE OF GEN. DUONG-VAN-MINH:

AT 08:00 A.M. AUGUST 20, 1971, THE PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE SLATE OF GENERAL DUONG-VANH-MINH, DR. HO-VAN-MINH AND SEN. HONG-SON-DONG APPLIED FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTAIL RACE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1971.

3. THE APPLICATION FOR WITHDRAWAL WAS FILLED BY THE REPLRESENTATIVE OF THE PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE LIST AT THE SECRETARIA GENERAL OF THE SUPREME COURT AT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED HOUR AND DATE. ATTACHED TO THIS COMMUNIQUE IS A PROCLAMATION OF GEN. DUONG-VAN-MINH TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AT HOME AND ABROAD. SAIGON, AUGUST 20, 1971, SIGNED

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izzuberry DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
6/20/71

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NGUYEN-HUU-CHUNG, INFORMATION AND PRESS OFFICE OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH. END TEXT

4. BEGIN TEXT PROCLAMATION OF GENERAL DUONG-VAN-MINH TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AT HOME AND ABROAD. DEAR COMPATRIOTS,

5. IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE WISHES OF ALL MY COMPATRIOTS, AND TO RESOLVE A DEADLOCK THAT POSED A HEAVY THREAT TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE NATION, EIGHT YEARS AGO, I, TOGETHER WITH MY COMRADES-IN-ARMS, OVERTURNED A DICTATORIAL REGIME OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAD SEPARATED ITSELF FROM OUR PEOPLE.

6. TO DESTROY THE JOKE OF DICTATORSHIP WAS BUT A BEGINNING.

7. THE NEXT STEPS WERE THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE SOUTH OF A NATION TRULY INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC, A SOCIETY IN WHICH THERE IS JUSTICE, WELL-BEING AND CLEMENCY, A SOCIETY IN WHICH EVERY CITIZEN, REGARDLESS OF HIS REGIONAL ORIGINS OR HIS POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS VIEWS, IS GIVEN A JUST OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE HIS SHARE TO THE DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT OF HIS FATHER LAND. THIS WAS THE MAIN GOAL PURSUED BY THOSE WHO STAGED THE NOVEMBER 1, 1963 REVOLUTION.

8. WITH SUCH A GOAL, NOT ONLY COULD SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE GROWN STRONGAND WEALTHY IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS, BUT ALSO IT MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED THE ENSUING SIX-YEARS. DEVASTATING WAR; THE ANTAGONIST ELEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY MIGHT HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECONCILE THEMSELVES AND TO PUT AN END TO A DEADLOCKED FRATICIDAL CONFLICT.

9. THE 1963 PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION -- IF IT HAD BEEN COMPLETED-- WOULD HAVE LED THE COUNTRY TOWARD PEACE.

10 BUT HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AT THAT TIME LACKED FAVORABLE CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO OUR SUCCESS. THE REVOLUTION WAS BETRAYED, THE WAY CONDUCIVE TO PEACE WAS OBSTRUCTED BY THE SCHEMES OF WAR-MONGER POWERS, AND THE PERSONAL AMBITION OF SOME INDIVIDUALS,

11. EIGHT YEARS HAVE PASSED BY OUR COUNTRY IS STILL ENGULFED BY WAR.

12. HOW MANY BOMBS AND SHELLS HAVE DROPPED ON NORTH AND SOUTH

VN, AND HOW MUCH SUFFERINGS, DEATH AND HATRED HAVE BEEN IMPOSEDD ON THE PEOPLE OF BOTH VIETNAMS; YET THE BASIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE SUCH AS INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL REUNIFUCATION, AND FREEDOM ETC... HAVE NOT BEEN MET.

13. EIGHT YEARS HAVE PASSED. INSTEAD OF GROWING STRONGER, THE SOUTH HAS WEAKENDED IN EVERY FIELD, AND IS ADVANCING TOWARD BANKRUPTCY.

14. THE NATION MUST RELY MORE AND MORE ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME OF GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOUR YEARS AGO HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY MANIPULATED, TO TRANSFORM IT INTO
AN INSTRUMENT FOR DICTATORIAL POLICY. THE ECONOMY IS DISRUPTED TO THE POINT THAT THE COUNTRY CAN BE CONSIDERED AS ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED, AND CAN RELY ONLY ON FOREIGN AID. SOCIAL INJUSTICE IS BECOMING MORE STRIKING, MORAL ETHICS ARE BEING REVERSED, CULTURE BECOMING CORRUPT, EDUCATION IS AT A STANDSTILL, AND NON-GUIDED YOUTHS ARE ADVANCING TOWARD DEBAUCHERY.

15. THE GREATEST HARM IS THAT THE MASSACRE AMONG THE VIETNAMESE STILL CONTINUES ON A GREATER SCALE, AND IT NEITHER BRINGS VICTORY NOR ACHIEVES PEACE.

16. IN THE SITUATION, WHAT PERSON WITH A MINIMUM OF CONSCIENCE DOES NOT FEEL ANGRY; WHAT PERSON WHO IS AT LEASE PATRIOTIC, DOES NOT INVOLVE HIMSELF IN FINDING A WAY OUT FOR THE COUNTRY?

17. THAT VERY SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY HAS IMPELLED ME TO STAND FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AT THIS TIME WITH THE SOLE ASPIRATION TO COMPLETE, TOGETHER WITH OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WHAT WAS INTERRUPTED 8 YEARS AGO; IN OTHER WORDS TO JOIN AGAIN THE ROAD CONDUCIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S PEACE, A PEACE DETERMINED BY THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, A PEACE BASED UPON RECONCILIATION AMONG THE VIETNAMESE AND AIMED AT THE SUPREME INTEREST OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

18. OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN ARE CRAVING FOR THIS PEACE; IT IS THE ROAD FOR SURVIVAL OF SOUTH VN, THE ROAD OF RENAISSANCE AND UNION OF THE PEOPLE.

19. THE PEOPLE'S PEACE WILL BE ACHIEVED WHEN WE HAVE AN UPRIGHT

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AND EFFICENT GOVERNMENT, STEMMING FROM THE PEOPLE AND ENJOUING THEIR SUPPORT; A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS THE PRESTIGE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TO ESCAPE FROM A FOREIGN ORBIT, AND TO RETRIEVE THE INITIATIVE IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

20. THE MOST CONVIENIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CREATION OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT IS THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION, WITH THE CONDITION THAT IT MUST BE COMPLETELY FREE AND HONEST.
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21. A FREE AND HONEST ELECTION WILL NOT ONLY BRING TO SOUTH VIETNAM A GOVERNMENT ANSWERING THE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATION, BUT IT WILL ALSO INDUCE THE PEOPLE TO BEGIN HAVING CONFIDENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME, -- THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION NECESSARY FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RECONCILIATION AMONG THE VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THIS PORTION OF TERRITORY.

22. THEREFORE, I HAVE LONG BEEN DEMANDING A FREE AND HONEST ELECTION, AND IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MY DECISION ON JULY 26, 1971, TO STAND FOR ELECTION I FIRST REQUESTED OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN TO FORGIVE ME, IF I WERE COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW IN THE EVENT THAT THE ELECTION DOES NOT MEET THE ABOVE MENTIONED REQUIREMENT.

23. I HOPED THAT MY WARNING AND THOSE OF MANY OTHER PERSONS WOULD MAKE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE REPENT AND REALIZE THE UNCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES OF A RIGGED ELECTION FOR THE NATION AND THEMSELVES.

24. AS FOR ME, I HAVE STRIVEN TO ASK THEM TO STOP THE MASSIVE APPARATUS FOR TRICKY MANEUVERS THAT HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING

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SECRETLY FOR MANY MONTHS, AND TO STOP ALL SCHEMES TO BLOCK, TO OPPRESS THE CANDIATES OF THE OPPOSITION, AND TO REPRESS AND TERRORIZE OUR FRIENDS AND CADRES.

25. BUT TO DATE THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES SUTUBBORNLY DISREGARDED OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

26. THE FACTS DENOUNCED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE AND THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS AGAINST RIGGED ELECTIONS, THE DOCUMENTS AND CONCRETE EVIDENCE PUBLISHED BY OUR OFFICE, THE GOVERNMENT'S REPRESSIVE AND TERRORIST ACTIONS EYE-WITNESSED BY OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN DURING THE PAST DAYS, ALL ARE BUT A SMALL PART OF THE SCHEMES THAT ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AND THAT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY, IN THE LOWER HOUSE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, AFTER REVIEWING ALL DATA. LISTENING TO ALL OPINIONS AND WEIGHING THE PRO AND CONS, I FIND IT MY DUTY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ELECTION FOR THE NATION'S AND THE PEOPLE'S SAKE.

27. I DECIDE TO WITHDRAW BECAUSE I CANNOT GIVE HELPING HAND TO FARCE WHICH WILL ONLY MAKE THE PEOPLE DISAPPOINTED IN A DEMOCRATIC REGIME AND PREVENTS THE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE, BECAUSE, AS I SAID IN THE SPEECH "PEOPLE'S PEACE" ON JUNE 17, 1971 THIS RECONCILIATION MUST STEM FROM CONFIDENCE IN AND RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC RULES.

28. TO ME, VICTORY OR DEFEAT IS NOT THE MAIN FACTOR. THE MAIN FACTOR IS TO DO THE MOST USEFUL THING TO SERVE THE COUNTRY ANDCONTRIBUTE TO THE RESTORATION OF PEACE FOR THE COUNTRY. TO WITHDRAW FROM A DISHONEST FARCE WILL GIVE RESPONSIBLE CIRCLES A-CHANCE TO WAKE UP, TO CREATE IN THE PEOPLE A WILL TO REBUILD A DEMOCRACY CONDUCIVE TO PEACE.

29. I SINCRELY SEND MY THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY WHO HAVE ENDORSED MY STANDPOINT, ENCOURAGED AND HELPED ME IN EVERY WAY, PARCICULARLY TO THE POOR, TO LABORERS, SERVICEMEN, CIVIL SERVANTS AND EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SMALL BUT EXTEEMELY VALUABLE AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR MY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THOSE AMOUNTS OF MONEY WILL BE DEPOSITED INTO A SPECIAL ACCOUNT AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THEM OR USED IN OTHER USEFUL ENTERPRISES ACCORDING TO THEIR WISH.

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EPM I SINCRELY THANK THOSE SENATORS AND DEPUTIES WHO HAVE COURAGEOUSLY ENDORSED MY CANDIDAC

31. I EARNESTLY THANK MY FRIENDS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR LABOR AND WEALTH AND COOPERATED WITH ME UNCONDITIONALLY. I BELIEVE THAT SINCERE AND IMPARTIAL COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THE FUTURE.

32. MY DEAR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, TO WITHDRAW IS NOT TO STOP STRUGGLING, TO WITHDRAW IS TO CHOOSE A MORE EFFECTIVE MANS TO SERVE THE FATHERLAND.

33. THE ROAD OF STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND THE PEOPLE'S PEACE IS A LENGTHY AND HARD ONE, FULL OF DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES.

34. ON THAT RIGHTEOUS ROAD, I WILL ALWAYS SIDE WITH YOU, THE PEOPLE. SAIGON, AUG. 8, 71 SIGNATURE GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH. END TEXT

35. PRESS OFFICER DID NOT TAKE QUESTIONS AT MEETING BUT DEPUTY CHUNG AND TON THAT THIEN, MINH'S OTHER PRESS OFFICER, HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN BRIEFING CORRESPONDENTS ON THEIR VIEWS OF ELEGU ALSO GIVEN TO REPORTERS WERE COPIES OF VARIOUS OTHER DOCUMENTS ALLEGEDLY PROVING ELECTION IREEGULARITIES, INCLUDING TOP SECRET INSTRUCTION TO PROVINCE CHIEFS. (WE ARE SEEKING TO OBTAIN COPIES.) GENERAL MINH WAS NOT PRESENT AT SESSION AND IS REPORTEDLY MEDITATING AT A LOCAL BUDDHIST PAGODA.
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